796 Divine Services are held every Sunday morning, and in the cities in the evening also. The sermon, of course, comprises the central part of the service, but the liturgy is rich, and on special holidays the officiating minister or ministers wear decorative cassocks over their or-
[533] dinary black cloaks. Great importance is placed on singing, and the hymnal contains many examples of Finnish religious folk music. A divine service, especially in the mediaeval stone or brick churches, is an impressive occasion.
346 There are altogether about seventy of these old churches descending from Catholic times and located in the southern and central parts of the country. They are interesting and beautiful pieces of native architecture, decorated with wooden sculpture and colorful wall paintings. The most impressive of them all is the great